



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Nebraska Field Office • Lincoln, Nebraska



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NEBRASKA'S MARCH 1, 2006 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Lincoln, Neb., March 31, 2006 -- Nebraska producers expect to increase acreage devoted to soybeans, sorghum, oats, and sugarbeets, and decrease acreage planted to corn, hay, winter wheat (sown last fall), dry edible beans, and sunflowers, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office.

Nebraska corn growers expect to plant 8.2 million acres for all purposes in 2006, down 4 percent from last year and down 1 percent from two years ago.

Soybean growers intend to plant 5.0 million acres, up 6 percent from last year and the largest planted area on record.

Last fall, winter wheat was sown on 1.75 million acres, down 5 percent from a year earlier and two years ago.

Sorghum growers expect to plant 360,000 acres, 6 percent more than 2005 but 35 percent less than 2004.

Hay acreage for harvest, at 2.8 million, would be down 2 percent from last year and tying the record low set two years ago. Dry edible bean producers intend to plant 165,000 acres, down 6 percent from a year earlier. Oat planting intentions, at 160,000 acres, are up 7 percent from 2005. Sunflower planting intentions, at 53,000 acres, are down 46 percent while sugarbeet plantings of 62,000 acres would be up 28 percent from a year ago.

These acreage estimates are based on surveys conducted the first two weeks of March. This report is intended to assist growers in finalizing their acreage plans for 2006. Actual area planted may vary from that indicated due to farmer's final assessment of planting options, effects of weather, availability of production inputs, and changes in price expectations for the coming crop year.

Access the National publication for this release at:

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